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Via fax and U.S. Mail (202) 219-3923

Office of the General Counsel Federal Elections Commission. 999 East St. N. W. Washington, D. C. 20463 Attn: Margaret Perl

plement to , 2004-08

Draft Advisory Opinion

2004-08: American Sugar Cane League

Gentlemen:

I have examined the letter submitted by Charles L. Thibaut on March 26, 2004 and the letter submitted by Warren J. Harang, III on March 30 regarding the captioned advisory opinion. I have also been informed that Mr. Jackie Theriot, a member of the Board of Directors of the American Sugar Cane League ("ASCL") and its immediate past Chairman of the Board, as well as Mr. Mike Daigle, a Board member, have also submitted similar comments in support of ASCL's request to grant a severance package to its former President and General Manager. I spoke with each of those four persons yesterday concerning their knowledge of and participation in previous discussions regarding the granting of a severance package to the former President and General Manager.

The earlier discussions occurred in 2001, during the time in which the employment of ASCL's Vice President and Director of Research was terminated. The former Vice President's termination of employment was precipitated by conflicts between him and the President. As a result of such conflicts the Vice President tendered his resignation and was awarded the severance package mentioned in my February 19 letter to you. However, the event was extremely controversial and caused considerable divisiveness within the organization. Some members withheld the payment of their dues because of the incident and threatened to terminate their membership.

PAUL G. BORRON (1874-1960) PAUL G. BORRON, JR. (1908-1997) J. EVAN DELAKAYE (1910-1997)

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7 ٦ Because of the disruption of the organization caused by the controversy, the President discussed with the persons from whom you have received comments, including Mr. Theriot who was the Chairman of the Board, the desirability of resigning as President and General Manager. His resignation was discouraged by those persons. However, they stated to him that if he should resign they would propose to the Board of Directors that he receive a severance package comparable to that granted to the former Vice President. Since his resignation was not submitted in 2001 the question of a severance package was not then presented to the Board.

The severance package which the ASCL now desires to provide to its former President (one year's pay with health insurance benefits) is the same package which would have been proposed in 2001 had he resigned at that time.

Hopefully this letter will answer the questions which arose as a result of the comments received by you. Should you desire additional information please so inform me.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Borron, III

P. S. I have spoken with Ms. Margaret Perl regarding this matter and consent to a continuation of the response date to May 3.